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Address editorial communications to Dr. George H. Kress as
per address above. Address business and advertising commu-
nications to John Hunton.

EDITOR GEORGE H. KRESS

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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND
WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules re-
garding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the prepa-
ration of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that
contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy
of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

PROCUREMENT AND ASSIGNMENT SERVICE: ITS RELATION TO PHYSICIANS ELIGIBLE TO MEDICAL CORPS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY

Medical Corps Boards.—During recent months many items regarding the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army and Navy have appeared in the medical press. In the minds of some physicians, considerable confusion exists as to the relation and complexion of certain constituted bodies having responsibilities in the acquisition of needed information concerning (1) the availability for military service of physicians still engaged in civil practice, and (2) what are the boards and authoritative agencies, through which applications and similar data must be sent forward. Therefore, these comments.*

* * *

A. M. A. Committee on Medical Preparedness.—Last year, the American Medical Association, through the constituent state medical societies, circularized the physicians of the United States, and, at an expenditure of some \$50,000 of its own funds, gathered and compiled informative data greatly needed by the medical departments of the armed forces. This was done in order that, should occasion arise, the same could be used by the Federal Government to promote procedures making for health and life protection of proper standards, for both the military forces and the civilian population. On the "A. M. A. Committee on Medical Preparedness," which supervised this activity, the Pacific States were represented by Charles A. Dukes, M. D., of Oakland.

* * *

Beginnings of the Federal Procurement and Assignment Service.—When it became evident that emergencies in international relationships were becoming tense, the Federal Government deemed it wise to bring into being its "Procurement and Assignment Service," through an order approved by President Roosevelt on October 30, 1941. That Service, in turn, may be said to have been formed as a result of action taken by the previously organized federal "Health and Medical Committee," the membership of which was made up of the following:

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and editorial interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

* For other comment, see reports in this issue under C. M. A. Committee on Medical Preparedness, on page 84.

For complete official statement, with specific information, see "Journal of American Medical Association," February 21, 1942, on pages 625-638.

Dr. Irvin Abel, Chairman; Surgeon General James C. Magee, U. S. Army; Admiral Ross T. McIntire, U. S. Navy; Surgeon General Thomas Parran, U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. Alfred N. Richards, Office of Scientific Research and Development; and Dr. James A. Crabtree, Executive Secretary.

The liaison and executive officer of the Procurement and Assignment Service is Major Sam F. Seeley, M. C., U. S. Army, and the Administrator is the Hon. Paul V. McNutt.

The "Board of Procurement and Assignment Service" consists of:

Dr. Frank H. Lahey, Chairman, President, American Medical Association, Boston.

Dr. C. Willard Camalier, Chairman, Dental Preparedness Committee, American Dental Association, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Harold S. Diehl, Dean, Medical Sciences, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Dr. James E. Paulin, Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Harvey B. Stone, Associate Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore.

Dr. Sam F. Seeley, Executive Officer.

* * *

Functions of the Procurement and Assignment Service.—The purpose of the Procurement and Assignment Service, as given in the *Journ. A. M. A.* (issue of December 6, 1941, on page 1986) is as follows:

The primary objective of the Procurement and Assignment Service is to maintain a complete list of all physicians, dentists and veterinarians of the entire country with detailed information as to age, physical condition, professional qualifications and availability for service in the various military, civil and industrial agencies of the country. This information is to be made available to all these groups who desire to enlist the services of these professional men.

Subsequent to its organization meetings, the "Board of the Procurement and Assignment Service" appointed various advisory and regional committees to aid in carrying through approved programs. Medical representatives included: For the Ninth Corps Area, Charles A. Dukes, M. D., Oakland, as chairman, and John Fitzgibbon, M. D., Portland, and John H. O'Shea, M. D., Spokane.*

* * *

Medical Corps for an Army of Four Million Men.—The accepted figures on medical service needs of armed forces indicate that 6 to 8 medical officers are required to properly care for the needs of each one thousand soldiers. Thus the prospective army of four million men would re-

* Ed. Note.—Subsequent to this writing, word was received from Washington, D. C. that in each of the nine Army Corps Areas, an office would be established, to which would be sent all applications received by Major Sam. F. Seeley from physicians residing in the respective districts. This regional office would institute its own cross-checks and report back to Major Seeley's office (Address: 601 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C.)

By appointment from Hon. Paul V. McNutt, Social Security Administrator, Dr. Charles A. Dukes, Oakland, a former president of the California Medical Association was placed in charge of the Ninth Corps Area work, with office in the Wakefield Building, Oakland.

Applications should be sent to the Washington Office, since the official files are under Major Seeley's supervision. The California office carries on activities of a supplementary and advisory nature.

quire, as medical officers, about 32,000 physicians! The present outlook denotes that an army of such or greater size will be created as soon as forced construction and equipment make available the necessary facilities!

* * *

Significance to the Medical Profession.—Therefore, under the new draft regulations, it may be assumed that practically all physically fit physicians of 36 years and less, will be called into the armed forces; and that between the ages 36 and 45, many physicians of that age-group will likewise be called into military service. The withdrawal of such a large number of physicians from civil practice will necessitate many readjustments among remaining and older physicians.

So-called civil practice will likewise take on new significance, since there will be a changed classification of the civil population into (1) essential industry, and (2) ordinary civilian groups. Because modern warfare is much more mechanized than in the past, the care of citizens who are engaged in the production of equipment for the armed forces is now given an increasing and important rôle. Owing to these and other conditions, the medical profession at large will be faced with problems almost as serious as those which have suddenly come into the lives of many physicians already enrolled in active service. Therefore, careful study and clear thinking must be in operation everywhere, if the best interests of all concerned are to be adequately protected, during and in the immediate post-war duration.

* * *

Recent Announcements by the Procurement and Assignment Service.—The importance which constituted authorities in organized medicine attach to existing conditions and prospective changes, is indicated in the colored display boxes which appear on the front covers of succeeding issues of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Also, it may be well to reflect somewhat upon the following editorial statement, taken from page 300 of the *J. A. M. A.*, for January 24th:

"Apparently some physicians, perhaps even many, have been confused by the publication of the enrollment blanks which appeared in previous issues of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* and in the state journals and by subsequent changes in procedure. Let us bear in mind that conditions change from week to week, almost from day to day. A procedure is initiated to obtain a certain effect and to supply a certain need. When the effect is obtained and the need is satisfied, that procedure becomes obsolete. The blanks which were published in *The Journal* served to bring in enough applications to meet the immediate needs of the Army and Navy Medical Corps. Every one of the men under 36 years of age who filled out that blank has been considered to be a volunteer available for immediate service. . . ."

* * *

Filling in the Blanks is a Service to the United States.—To some physicians, it may

seem to be a nuisance to be called on to fill in repeatedly, recurring blanks. If such persons there are, it may be proper to remind them that our Country is now being called upon to make the most massive military endeavor of its history; and that members of the medical profession are a fundamentally essential element in that effort. In hospital and insurance work, physicians make many reports. For Country and Victory, filling in several necessary biographical blanks should be no hardship, but rather a service, gladly and gratefully rendered. The Procurement and Assignment Service—which in California is represented by Harold A. Fletcher, M. D., of San Francisco (through appointment by Administrator Paul V. McNutt)—will be deeply appreciative of full cooperation.

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CONTINUATION COURSES: ANNUAL SESSION; COUNTY SOCIETY REFRESHER CONFERENCES: AND 6TH ANNUAL SECRETARIAL CONFERENCE

War Conditions Emphasize the Need of Up-to-date Medical Knowledge.—If medical continuation courses are worthy of attendance in days of peace, then in times of war participation in such work is even more desirable. At any rate, under present-day conditions, much that was accepted practice in medicine and surgery in even recent World War I, is no longer applicable.

That fateful day—December 7, 1941—has necessitated many readjustments. Radical, for example, are those transitions which have come to physicians who, on short notice, have been called from routines in civil practice, to assume careers in military environments. Less so, true, are the rearrangements for those who remain behind, but for whom different outlooks are also in order, if they would be prepared properly to cope with incidents that may take place through bombardments in a combat zone, of which the State of California is one. Modern warfare, as it is now carried on by some nations, demands alertness and preparedness for all possible accidents, no matter how remote from actual occurrence such deplorable catastrophies may at the present time appear.

It is important to look at such matters realistically: not to do so, may lay the foundation for much subsequent sorrow. Since these conditions face us, it is particularly incumbent upon members of the medical profession to fit themselves properly for different work and new duties, and be prepared for aught that may come. That is why it is desirable that knowledge on best procedures in warfare practice—either at the front or in civilian districts—should be made available to all physicians. At meetings of state and county medical societies, of hospital staffs, and even of physicians at large, who have but few, if any, group affiliations, the newer knowledge concerning treatment of burns, shock, hemorrhage, gas casualties and similar conditions must be given adequate emphasis. To proceed further with this line of thought, attention is called to the conferences noted below.

Annual Session at Del Monte: Sunday, May 3rd, through Wednesday, May 6th, inclusive.—The C. M. A. Committee on Scientific Work and Section Officers met in San Francisco on January 25th, and redrafted the annual session program, which had received tentative approval at a prior meeting. Those in attendance felt that present conditions pointed to the need of programs in which military medicine would be properly emphasized in general sessions, and in meetings of the scientific sections.

It was agreed there was more, rather than less need of conferences between physicians representing different areas in the State, on what are the best ways and means to meet present or future emergencies.

The C. M. A. Council, at its meeting on January 17th, also voted that the annual session should be held as previously arranged; but in the event of unforeseen military or other complications that might interfere therewith, suitable action would be taken.

* * *

General Arrangement of the Annual Session Program.—The C. M. A. Committee on Scientific work agreed on the following:

On Sunday, May 3rd, will be held the preliminary or player-up gatherings of affiliated organizations: Microscopic Conference: X-ray Study Group; Clinical Cancer Symposium; Western Industrial Surgeons; California Heart Association; County Medical Society Secretaries' Conference; and Board of Councilors Meeting. Four general meetings will be arranged, in which military medicine and allied subjects will be emphasized. The meetings will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and on Tuesday afternoon. Most of the meetings of the scientific sections will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. In due course, the complete programs will appear in the Pre-Convention Bulletin forming a part of the April issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

In the Scientific Exhibit division, efforts will be made to secure—from state, county and city health departments, and from hospital staffs and affiliated organizations—displays portraying their respective methods and procedures, through which it is hoped to be prepared for any eventualities in civilian defense.

Medical Schools, hospital groups and individual physicians are invited to present exhibits on anatomic, pathologic or research work, or studies. Prize awards and certificates will be conferred for the major exhibit groups.

Medical and surgical films, as heretofore, will be presented on each of the four mornings.

All who can participate in any of the above programs are urged to communicate with the Association Secretary at 450 Sutter, San Francisco.

* * *

County Society Postgraduate Conferences.—In one sense, the conferences on scientific subjects, held at the annual session, are an expression